



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

JUN 21 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Independence Day Holiday Safety Message

1. In honor of our great nation, the US Congress made Independence Day a federal holiday in 1870. The fourth of July is the only holiday that celebrates the United States. This year we must celebrate our men and women in uniform who are putting their lives on the line so that another nation might understand how wonderful it is to be free.

2. As we enjoy the festivities with picnics and barbecues, fireworks, and baseball games, we must think safety first. Practice S.T.O.P.P., stop, think, observe, plan, and proceed with safety and you cannot go wrong. Briefings conducted by leaders should include the following:

a. POV safety: Do not drink and drive and do not let anyone drive if drunk. Wear your seat belt, it is the law! Ensure all passengers are buckled up. Obey the posted speed limits and always watch out for the other driver. Adjust travel times to allow for rest breaks.

b. Motorcycle/ATV safety: Riders must wear the appropriate riding apparel. Motorcycle and ATV riders must take an approved safety course. Never loan your bike to anyone. Drive with extreme caution.

c. Water safety: All occupants will wear a flotation device (PFD). Ensure the emergency radio works before launching the boat. Swimmers should never extend their abilities. Drinking alcohol and operating a boat equals a DWI when stopped by the US Coast Guard.

d. Barbeque/fireworks safety: Never squirt lighting fuel on hot charcoal. Proper disposal of charcoal will eliminate a fire. Fireworks should only be handled by adults. Follow the instructions on the package for safe handling, storage, and clearance of a misfire.

3. Please have a nice holiday and come back safely.

DANIEL P. BOLGER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

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